

## Message Text

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71

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 L-03 EB-11 FAA-00 COME-00

SS-15 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 /080 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/ SOV: CABRYANT

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APPROVED BY EUR/ SOV: JFMATLOCK

EUR/ SOV: JDSCANLAN ( DRAFT)

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O 272222 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, ETRN, US, UR

SUBJECT: TOUR PROGRAM TO USSR

1. INTERNATIONAL WEEKENDS, INC., OF BOSTON, IN COOPERATION WITH FINNAIR SIGNED A PROTOCOL WITH INTOURIST ON JANUARY 9, 1973, FOR AN EXTENSIVE TOUR PROGRAM TO THE USSR THIS FALL. WE UNDERSTAND TRANSPORTATION WOULD BE ARRANGED BY FINNAIR TO HELSINKI AND THAT INTOURIST AND AEROFLOT WOULD ARRANGE FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION TO LENINGRAD AND AIR TRAVEL TO MOSCOW. THE TOUR PROMOTER TOLD THE DEPARTMENT THAT, THUS FAR, RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM SOME 11,000 PEOPLE; THE PROGRAM COULD ACCOMMODATE A MAXIMUM OF 17,000 TOURISTS. AMONG THE GROUPS REPRESENTED IN THIS TOUR PROGRAM ARE VARIOUS FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATIONS AND ALUMNI ORGANIZATIONS OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. THE TOUR PROMOTER HAS INDICATED THAT HE RECEIVED WORD FROM INTOURIST THAT THE ENTIRE PROGRAM WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF QUOTE UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES UNQUOTE.

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2. AN INFORMAL PAPER, CONTAINING THE INFORMATION IN PARA 1, WAS PRESENTED TO SOVEMB CONSUL TODAY, JUNE 27. WE STRESSED THAT THIS WOULD BE A POTENTIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS DISASTER FOR THE SOVIETS PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE ANTICIPATED IMPETUS TO TOURISM TO THE SOVIET UNION AS A RESULT OF THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT, AND ASKED HIM TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATION TO SEE IF ANYTHING COULD BE DONE.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN AN EFFORT TO ASCERTAIN A SPECIFIC REASON FOR THE CANCELLATION AND/ OR WHETHER THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THE PROGRAM COULD BE CARRIED OUT AS PLANNED. WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY, IF ONLY AN INTERIM REPORT, ASAP. ROGERS

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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